

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A vehicle seat, the seat comprising:
2 a seat cushion assembly;
3 a seat back assembly; and
4 a track assembly for supporting the seat cushion assembly and the seat
5 back assembly in a vehicle and for allowing movement of the seat cushion assembly
6 and the seat back assembly between a use position and a stadium position in which
7 the seat cushion assembly and the seat back assembly are each in a substantially
8 upright position.

1 2. The seat of claim 1 wherein the track assembly is configured
2 to allow the seat back assembly to slide forward to allow the seat cushion assembly
3 and the seat back assembly to be in the substantially upright position.

1 3. The seat of claim 1 further comprising a linkage between the
2 seat cushion assembly and the seat back assembly, the linkage causing the seat
3 cushion assembly to actuate into the substantially upright position with forward
4 movement of the seat back assembly.

1 4. The seat of claim 1 wherein the track assembly includes a
2 bottom track portion, a front top track portion, and a rear top track portion, the top
3 track portions being slidable along the bottom track portion, the seat cushion
4 assembly being connected to the front top track portion and the seat back assembly
5 being connected to the rear top track portion.

1 5. The seat of claim 4 further comprising a forward/rearward
2 assembly associated with a rear top track portion lock to permit forward and
3 rearward movement of the seat, the forward movement comprising the front and rear
4 top track portions simultaneously moving forward along the bottom track portion,
5 the rearward movement comprising the front and rear top track portions
6 simultaneously moving rearward along the bottom track portion.

1 6. The seat of claim 4 further comprising a pivot assembly for
2 pivoting the seat back assembly relative to the rear top track portion, the pivot
3 assembly being operable to secure the seat back in a kneeling position, an inclined
4 position, a flat position, and a reclined position, the kneeling position comprising
5 the seat back being pivoted forwardly to a substantially horizontal position relative
6 to the seat cushion, the inclined position comprising the seat back being pivoted
7 forwardly to less than the kneeling position, the flat position comprising the seat
8 back being pivoted rearwardly to a substantially horizontal position relative to the
9 seat cushion, the reclined position comprising the seat back being pivoted
10 rearwardly to less than the flat position.

1 7. The seat of claim 4 further comprising a linkage connected to
2 the rear top track portion and the seat cushion assembly, the linkage causing the seat
3 cushion assembly to pivot relative to the front top track portion and into the
4 substantially upright position with forward movement of the rear top track portion.

1 8. The seat of claim 7 further comprising a stadium slide
2 assembly associated with locks on the seat cushion assembly and the rear top track
3 portion to permit stadium positioning of the seat, actuation of the stadium slide
4 assembly permitting forward movement of the front and rear top track portions, the
5 bottom track portion including a stopper to limit forward movement of the front top
6 track portion, the linkage causing the seat cushion assembly to begin pivoting only
7 after continued forward movement of the rear top track portion after the front top
8 track portion contacts the stopper.

1 9. The seat of claim 8 further comprising a spring secured at one
2 end to the front top track portion and secured at another end to a front of the bottom
3 track portion, the spring tending to pull the front top track portion toward the front
4 of the bottom track portion, the spring providing initial biasing to move the rear top
5 track portion forward in response to actuation of the stadium slide assembly for
6 moving the seat into the stadium position.

1 10. The seat of claim 9 wherein the spring restrains the front top
2 track portion in a forward position relative to the stopper during actuation of the
3 stadium slide assembly for moving the seat from the stadium position to the use
4 position such that rearward movement of the rear top track portion causes the
5 linkage to pivot the seat cushion from the upright position to the use position in
6 which the seat cushion assembly is in a substantially horizontal position.

1 11. The seat of claim 4 further comprising a seat cushion lock and
2 a rear top track portion lock, the seat cushion lock being configured to lock the seat
3 cushion in the use position, the rear top track portion lock being configured to lock
4 the rear top track portion relative to the bottom track portion for locking the seat
5 back assembly and thereby the seat cushion assembly in the substantially upright
6 position if the rear top track portion is moved sufficiently forward and locked.

1 12. A second row seating system for use with an automotive
2 vehicle, the system comprising:
3 a second row seat comprising a seat cushion assembly and a seat back
4 assembly; and
5 a track assembly for supporting the seat cushion assembly and the seat
6 back assembly in the vehicle and for allowing movement of the seat cushion
7 assembly and the seat back assembly between a use position and a stadium position
8 in which the seat cushion assembly and the seat back assembly are each in a
9 substantially upright position at a forward position of the track assembly to provide
10 access to an area of the vehicle behind the second row seat.

1 13. The seat of claim 12 further comprising a linkage between the
2 seat cushion assembly and the seat back assembly, the linkage causing the seat
3 cushion assembly to actuate into the substantially upright position with forward
4 movement of the seat back assembly.

1 14. The seat of claim 12 wherein the track assembly includes a
2 bottom track portion, a front top track portion, and a rear top track portion, the top
3 track portions being slidable along the bottom track portion to allow the stadium

4 positioning, the seat cushion assembly being connected to the front top track portion
5 and the seat back assembly being connected to the rear top track portion.

1 15. The seat of claim 14 further comprising a forward/rearward
2 assembly associated with a rear top track portion lock to permit forward and
3 rearward movement of the seat, the forward movement comprising the front and rear
4 top track portions simultaneously moving forward along the bottom track portion,
5 the rearward movement comprising the front and rear top track portions
6 simultaneously moving rearward along the bottom track portion.

1 16. The seat of claim 14 further comprising a pivot assembly for
2 pivoting the seat back assembly relative to the rear top track portion, the pivot
3 assembly being operable to secure the seat back in a kneeling position, an inclined
4 position, a flat position, and a reclined position, the kneeling position comprising
5 the seat back being pivoted forwardly to a substantially horizontal position relative
6 to the seat cushion, the inclined position comprising the seat back being pivoted
7 forwardly to less than the kneeling position, the flat position comprising the seat
8 back being pivoted rearwardly to a substantially horizontal position relative to the
9 seat cushion, the reclined position comprising the seat back being pivoted
10 rearwardly to less than the flat position.

1 17. The seat of claim 14 further comprising a linkage connected
2 to the rear top track portion and the seat cushion assembly, the linkage causing the
3 seat cushion assembly to pivot relative to the front top track portion and into the
4 upright position with forward movement of the rear top track portion.

1 18. The seat of claim 17 further comprising a stadium slide
2 assembly associated with locks on the seat cushion assembly and the rear top track
3 portion to permit stadium positioning of the seat, actuation of the stadium slide
4 assembly permitting forward movement of the front and rear top track portions, the
5 bottom track portion including a stopper to limit forward movement of the front top
6 track portion, the linkage causing the seat cushion assembly to begin pivoting only

7 after continued forward movement of the rear top track portion after the front top
8 track portion contacts the stopper.

1 19. The seat of claim 18 further comprising a spring secured at
2 one end to the front top track portion and secured at another end to a front of the
3 bottom track portion, the spring tending to pull the front top track portion toward
4 the front of the bottom track portion, the spring providing initial biasing to move the
5 rear top track portion forward in response to actuation of the stadium slide assembly
6 for moving the seat into the stadium position, the spring also restraining the front
7 top track portion in a forward position relative to the stopper during actuation of the
8 stadium slide assembly for moving the seat from the stadium position to the use
9 position such that rearward movement of the rear top track portion causes the
10 linkage to pivot the seat cushion from the upright position to the use position in
11 which the seat cushion assembly is in a substantially horizontal position.

1 20. A second row seat system for use with an automotive vehicle,
2 the seat comprising:
3 a seat cushion assembly;
4 a seat back assembly;
5 a linkage connected to the seat cushion assembly; and
6 a track assembly for supporting the seat cushion assembly and the seat
7 back assembly in the vehicle and for allowing sliding movement of the seat back
8 assembly to cause the linkage to move the seat cushion assembly between a use
9 position and a stadium position, the stadium position including the seat cushion
10 assembly and the seat back assembly each positioned in a substantially upright
11 position at a forward position of the track assembly to provide access to an area of
12 the vehicle behind the second row seat.